In the Drawings:

Substitute drawings are attached.

Drawings

The drawings were rejected by the Examiner on several bases. The Drawings have been amended in order to address each of these rejections.

Specification

The Specification has been amended to address several informalities identified by the Examiner.

Claims Rejected by way of Tang

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections based on the Tang reference. Respectfully, the Tang reference fails to teach any of the claimed limitations of the present invention. A claimed limitation and benefit of the present invention is that each collimator segment is comprised of a plurality of longitudinal walls, EACH having a interlocking protrusion comprising only a portion of the first segment depth. The interlocking protrusions in Tang encompass the entire segment depth as defined by the present application. Furthermore, not every longitudinal wall has any interlocking protrusion at all in Tang. Many are solid. The limitations claimed by the present invention are not present in Tang. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits the 35 USC 102 rejections regarding Tang are inappropriate and should be removed. .

Claims rejected by way of Igarashi et al

Claims 1-3 and 6-19 were rejected by Igarashi et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiners rejections and requests reconsideration in light of the present amendments. The Applicant notes that the Figure 10C from the Igarashi reference does not show a longitudinal sidewall as claimed by the present invention but rather a cap 221 holding the sidewalls 233. This can be clearly seen in Figure 9a. Furthermore, one need reference the Igarashi specification paragraph 60 to see that the Igarashi reference contemplates that the cap 221 is such that x-rays are transmitted through the support. This is because it is a cap and not a collimator sidewall. Collimator sidewalls are built specifically to Prevent x-ray protrusion. If the structure referenced in the Igarashi reference was a shield, no x-rays would pass through the collimator at all! The Applicant submits that it is not the same structure nor does it contain the same limitations as the present invention. In order to make clear the

existing limitations of the present invention, and to bring the claims into clear conformity with both the specification and the drawings, the claims have been amended to clarify that sidewalls are planar with the x-ray projections. This clearly differentiates between a cap through which x-rays pass and a collimator sidewall.

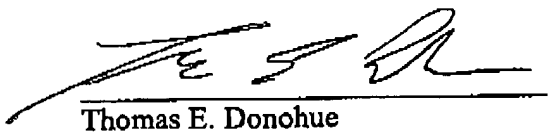
Claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Finally the claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) with regards to Tang for claim 3 and Tang with Guida for claims 4 and 5. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and incorporates by reference the above traversals of Tang. The fact is, none of the cited references teach the use of multiple sidewalls having partial protrusions that mate to form a continuous shielding sidewall. Tang fails to teach even the most fundamental elements, the sidewall with out a shielding gap. The Applicant, therefore, requests reconsideration.

With this response, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the case is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Donohue
Reg. No. 44,660
Artz & Artz, P.C.
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500
(248) 223-9522 (Fax)

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